

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04496 121537Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----060969 121550Z /44

O 121455Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5166  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4496

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS MILI PBOR IS LE  
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 6687

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AT HIS REQUEST AT 1300, SEP 12. BOUTROS ASKED ME IF I HAD ANYTHING FURTHER TO PASS TO HIM ON SOUTH LEBANON AND I REPLIED I DID NOT. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTIONING, I SAID THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS HAD MET WITH BEGIN, DAYAN AND WEIZMAN FOR FULL DISCUSSION OF SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION, BUT I DID NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT TO SUMMARIZE THIS DISCUSSION. I SAID BEGIN HAD INDICATED HE WISHED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH ISRAELI CABINET, WHICH MET ON SUNDAYS, AND I HAD NOT YET SEEN ANY REPORT ON THIS MEETING. BOUTROS ASKED THAT I GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS SOON AS I HAD ANY NEW INFORMATION, EVEN IF IT MEANT CALLING HIM AT HOME ON A HOLIDAY (ID AL FITR WILL FALL ON EITHER SEP 13 OR 14 THIS YEAR). BOUTROS REMARKED THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING AND COOPERATIVE

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DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS HERE AND HE ONLY HOPED THEY WOULD LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS.

2. I THEN ASKED BOUTROS IF HE COULD TELL ME A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE LEBANESE ARMY PLANS FOR REPLACING THE PALESTINIANS WHEN THEY WITHDRAW. BOUTROS REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE "LESS THAN TEN DAYS" FOR THE

LEBANESE ARMY TO MAKE ITS FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR REPLACING PALESTINIANS, ONCE ISRAELI ASSURANCES HAD BEEN RECEIVED. HE SAID THAT GENERAL KHOURY HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD HAVE 500 LEBANESE TROOPS READY TO MOVE IN ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE PALESTINIANS MOVED OUT, 200 WHO COULD MOVE TWO DAYS LATER, AND AN ADDITIONAL 500 WHO COULD MOVE WITHIN ONE WEEK.

3. I TOLD BOUTROS THAT WE UNDERSTOOD BASHIR GEMAYEL WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE AND ASKED IF HE HAD ANY PLANS FOR INFORMING BASHIR OF TIMING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA III, ONCE IT HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON. BOUTROS SAID THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE KFUR FRONT ON PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING SHTAURA III. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ALSO FIND WAYS TO BRIEF BASHIR GEMAYEL AND DANY CHAMOUN, THE TWO MILITARY COMMANDERS, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

4. I THEN MENTIONED TO BOUTROS THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY OF THE CHRISTIANS FIGHTING IN MARJAYUN AND QULA'A WERE FORMER LEBANESE ARMY PERSONNEL AND ASKED WHAT ATTITUDE HE EXPECTED THEM TO ADOPT. BOUTROS REPEATED THE POSITION THAT HE TOOK WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND ME IN OUR MEETING ON AUG 26 (PARA 6, BEIRUT 4204). HE SAID THAT ONCE THE LEBANESE ARMY HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF THIS AREA, GENERAL KHOURY WOULD APPOINT NEW OFFICERS BUT  
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LEAVE THE SOLDIERS THEMSELVES IN PLACE. WHETHER THESE SOLDIERS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE TRANSFERRED, AND WHERE, WOULD DEPEND ON HOW CIRCUMSTANCES EVOLVED.

5. I MENTIONED TO BOUTROS THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THE LEBANESE WERE INTERESTED IN REVIVING CONTACTS THROUGH ILMAC AND ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD TELL ME ON THIS SUBJECT. BOUTROS CONFIRMED THAT PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WERE UNDERWAY BETWEEN GENERAL KHOURY AND THE UN COMMANDER. THE DECISION ON HOW FAR ALONG THIS ROAD TO PROCEED, HOWEVER, WAS A POLITICAL ONE WHICH HE AND PRESIDENT SARKIS WOULD MAKE. HE HAD ASKED GENERAL KHOURY FOR A REPORT AND WOULD POSTPONE ANY DECISIONS UNTIL HE HAD STUDIED THE GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. COMMENT: I WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ASAP ON HOW MUCH OF REFTEL OR ANY SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATION WE HAVE HAD FROM ISRAELIS I CAN PASS ON TO BOUTROS.  
LANE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, MILI, PBOR, IS, LE, (BOUTROS, FUAD GEORGES)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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